

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached replacement sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1 and 2 to ensure that all numbers and reference characters are plain and eligible, and changes to Figs. 5, 6, 11, and 12 to ensure the quality of lines, number, and letters. Applicants have also corrected a misspelling in block 55 in Fig. 6.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets for Figs. 1, 2, 5, 6, 11, and 12.

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 7 and 8 and cancel claims 1-3 and 9-11, without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter thereof. Claims 4, 6-8, and 12 are currently pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 4, 6-8,¹ and 12. The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.84; objected to claims 8-11 as indefinite; rejected claims 3 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,633,757 to Hermann et al. ("Hermann"); and rejected claims 1, 2, 10, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hermann.² Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 4, 6-8, and 12. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's objections and rejections.

Regarding objection to drawings

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's objection to the drawings. However, to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants have included replacement drawing sheets for objected to Figs. 1, 2, 5, 6, 11, and 12. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to drawings of Figs. 1, 2, 5, 6, 11, and 12.

Regarding claim objection

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's objection to claims 8-11 as indefinite. However, to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants have amended claim 8 to recite "a predetermined period" instead of "the predetermined

¹ The Examiner noted that claim 8 was allowed subject to a pending objection to claim 8.

² The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

period," to set forth sufficient antecedent basis. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to claim 8. Because claims 9-11 have been canceled, the objection to claims 9-11 is moot.

Regarding claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 3 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hermann. However, because claims 3 and 9 have been canceled, the Section 102(e) rejection of claims 3 and 9 is moot.

Regarding claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 2, 10, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hermann. However, because claims 1, 2, 10, and 11 have been canceled, the Section 103(a) rejection of claims 1, 2, 10, and 11 is moot.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request the timely issuance of a Notice for Allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: September 26, 2006

By: 
Wenye Tan, Reg. No. 55,662

Attachments: Replacement Sheets for Figs. 1, 2, 5, 6, 11, and 12.